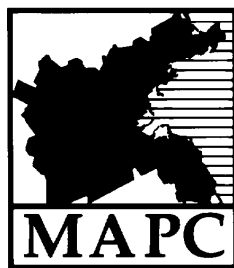


A MUNICIPAL GUIDE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT



The Metropolitan Area Planning Council
October 2000

THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT

Chapter 267 of the Acts of 2000

A new tool for communities to preserve open space, historic sites, and community housing was recently added to the local option toolbox. Over a decade of work has gone into the Community Preservation Act legislation which was signed by Governor Cellucci and Lieutenant Governor Swift on September 14, 2000. MAPC has compiled this summary to help municipal officials and citizens understand the legislation as well as provide a timeline for successful implementation for the upcoming fiscal year.

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Summary

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a local option. It enables communities to establish a municipal Community Preservation Fund by local referendum. Monies collected for this fund are from a surcharge of up to 3% on local property taxes. The state will offer matching grants from the Community Preservation Trust Fund. Monies in the Community Preservation Fund may only be spent on open space, historic preservation, and community housing.

Funding Collection

Local Level: Communities raise money for the creation and preservation of open space, historic sites, and community housing through a property tax surcharge of up to 3%. A community must vote to accept the provisions of the Community Preservation Act through a majority vote in a regular election. Properties are exempt from the CPA surcharge authorized under M.G.L. c.59. Abatements authorized under c.59 will result in a reduction of the surcharge in the same proportion. In addition, other exemptions may be considered thorough acceptance on the ballot. These exemptions are as follows:

- a) for the first \$100,000 value of each taxable parcel of residential property;
- b) class three and class four properties (commercial or industrial); and
- c) for property owned and occupied by a person who would qualify for low-income housing or low or moderate-income senior housing.*

State Level: A state match is generated from an increase in certain fees at the Registry of Deeds. Currently, these fees are estimated to generate around \$25 million per year.

**For seniors, the requirement is age 60 and over and having an income fall under 100% of the areawide median. Low income is income which falls under 80% of the areawide median. The areawide median income is defined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. (Executive Order 418 packets has the dollar figures for the Boston area.)*

Funding Allocation from State to Municipalities

Distributions will be made to communities on October 15 for the previous fiscal year collections in the Community Preservation Trust Fund. The percentage of the state match (ranging from 5% a possible 100%) is determined by the number of communities participating in the Community Preservation Act for that year. All funds generated by the Commonwealth will be split 80/20 for two grant round distributions.

First Round Distribution: The 80% will be used for the first round distribution, which is based upon the number of communities participating in the program. All communities adopting the CPA are eligible for this round. For example, if \$25 million is collected by the state, \$20 million (80%) would be divided among the communities who have opted to participate in the CPA for that year. Communities will receive the same percentage, however the dollar amounts will be different depending upon the dollar amounts raised in each community. If less than 10% (35) of the communities in the Commonwealth adopt the CPA, this will be the only grant round; this distribution will be close to 100% match.

Second Round Distribution: The remaining 20% would be used for a second round match known as the “equity distribution” for communities having a lower economic base and/or a small population. This distribution reflects the Community Preservation Rank assigned to all municipalities. For a community to be eligible to receive the second round match, the community must have adopted the property surcharge at the full 3%.

Should there be any additional monies left in the Massachusetts Community Preservation Trust Fund, a third round (surplus) distribution will be granted on the same criteria as the second round distribution. *Note: A community will not receive more than a 100% match grant.*

Community Preservation Project Funding

A community must set aside a minimum of 30% of all funds generated; with even 10% allocation towards open space, historic resources, and community housing. Definitions of the three areas are as follows:

Open Space: including but not limited to land to protect existing and future well fields, aquifers and recharge areas, watershed land, agricultural land, grasslands, fields, forest land, fresh and salt water marshes and other wetlands, ocean, river, stream, lake and pond frontage, beaches, dunes and other coastal lands, lands to protect scenic vistas, land for wildlife or nature preserve *but not land for recreational use*.

Historic Resources: buildings, structures, vessels, or real property listed or eligible for listing on the state register of historic places or has been determined by the local historic commission to be significant in the history, archeology, architecture or culture of a municipality.

Community Housing: housing for individuals and families whose annual income is less than 100% of the areawide median income (including low and moderate income housing for citizens above age 60). *The areawide median income is determined by the US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.*

The remaining 70% of the funds can be allocated to any of the above-defined areas including the creation and preservation of recreational lands without a percentage restriction. Technical note: if property is acquired using monies in the Community Preservation Fund, the property must be owned by the municipality. Management may be assigned to a non-profit.

Community Preservation Committee

Once the CPA is accepted, the community must establish an ordinance or by-law for the Community Preservation Committee. The terms and selection (appointment, election, or combination) as well as the exact number of its 5-9 members are determined by the ordinance or by-law. The Committee shall include, but is not limited to, the following members appointed by their respective Commissions or Boards:

- One member from the Conservation Commission
- One member from the Historical Commission
- One member of the Planning Board
- One member of the Board of Park Commissioners
- One member of the Housing Authority

The Commission is charged with studying all aspects of community preservation in its respective municipality. This shall be accomplished in consultation with municipal boards, with a minimum of one or more public informational hearings regarding preservation possibilities. The Community Preservation Commission is charged with reporting recommendations to the legislative body on projects that would acquire, create and preserve open space and community housing; and on the acquire and preserve historic resources. Each recommendation must be accompanied by the anticipated costs of each project. Up to 5% of the annual funds in the Community Preservation Fund may be authorized by the local legislative body for administrative fees of the Committee.

A quorum is necessary for the Committee to conduct a meeting. A majority of the members constitutes a quorum. All actions need a majority vote.

Local Adoption and Implementation

The Community Preservation Act does not become law until December 14, 2000. Technically, this means a community cannot formally act on this legislation until then. Once the Community Preservation Act becomes law, a community has one of two options to place the CPA on the ballot of a regular election.

1. The municipal legislative body may place the CPA on the ballot. The petition must be submitted to the clerk a minimum of 35 days prior a municipal election or to the Secretary of State at least 60 days before a state election.
2. If the local legislative body has not adopted the CPA language at least 90 days before a municipal election or 120 days before a state election, a petition maybe filed by the voters with a minimum of 5% of the signatures from registered voters of that city or town. This petition must be filed with the clerk a minimum of 42 days prior to the municipal election and to the Secretary of State a minimum of 67 days before the state election which allows for the required 7 days to verify signatures.

Before being placed on the ballot, the legislative body or individuals/groups petitioning must first determine:

a) The percentage at which property taxes will be surcharged.

This percentage is exempt from proposition 2 ½ and can be up to 3%. Remember, if your community would like to be eligible for the second round state match, adoption at the full 3% is necessary.

b) The exemptions, if any, for the above surcharge.

Official language for the referendum is in section 3(f) of the legislation.

Although a community's legislative body may change the property tax surcharge at any time, a community may not vote out of the CPA for five years.

FY 2002 Municipal Timetable

This timetable is based on 2001 municipal elections. The dates in this table reflect the next municipal election. Should a community want to implement the Community Preservation Act for Fiscal Year 2002, to receive the state matching grant on October 15, 2002, the CPA would need to be on the ballot for these elections.

Community	Begin Signature Petition	Signature Petition Due	Last Day for Governing Body Action	Election
Abington	February 11, 2001	March 31, 2001	April 7, 2001	May 12, 2001
Acton	December 27, 2000	February 13, 2001	February 20, 2001	March 27, 2001
Acushnet	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Adams	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Agawam	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Alford	February 15, 2001	April 4, 2001	April 11, 2001	May 16, 2001
Amesbury	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Amherst				Not available
Andover	December 28, 2000	February 14, 2001	February 21, 2001	March 28, 2001
Aquinnah	February 8, 2001	March 28, 2001	April 4, 2001	May 9, 2001
Arlington	January 7, 2001	February 24, 2001	March 3, 2001	April 7, 2001
Ashburnham	January 20, 2001	March 9, 2001	March 16, 2001	April 20, 2001
Ashby	January 30, 2001	March 19, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 30, 2001
Ashfield	February 5, 2001	March 25, 2001	April 1, 2001	May 6, 2001
Ashland	February 1, 2001	March 21, 2001	March 28, 2001	May 2, 2001
Athol	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Attleboro	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Auburn	February 16, 2001	April 5, 2001	April 12, 2001	May 17, 2001
Avon	February 7, 2001	March 27, 2001	April 3, 2001	May 8, 2001
Ayer	January 23, 2001	March 12, 2001	March 19, 2001	April 23, 2001
Barnstable	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Barre	December 14, 2000	January 23, 2001	January 30, 2001	March 5, 2001
Becket	February 18, 2001	April 7, 2001	April 14, 2001	May 19, 2001
Bedford	December 14, 2000	January 20, 2001	January 27, 2001	March 3, 2001
Belchertown	February 20, 2001	April 9, 2001	April 16, 2001	May 21, 2001
Bellingham	January 31, 2001	March 20, 2001	March 27, 2001	May 1, 2001
Belmont	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Berkley	February 11, 2001	March 31, 2001	April 7, 2001	May 12, 2001
Berlin	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Bernardston	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Beverly	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Billerica	January 7, 2001	February 24, 2001	March 3, 2001	April 7, 2001
Blackstone	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Blandford	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Bolton	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001

Community	Begin Signature Petition	Signature Petition Due	Last Day for Governing Body Action	Election
Boston	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Bourne	January 4, 2001	February 21, 2001	February 28, 2001	April 4, 2001
Boxborough	February 20, 2001	April 9, 2001	April 16, 2001	May 21, 2001
Boxford	February 14, 2001	April 3, 2001	April 10, 2001	May 15, 2001
Boylston	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Braintree	January 31, 2001	March 20, 2001	March 27, 2001	May 1, 2001
Brewster	February 21, 2001	April 10, 2001	April 17, 2001	May 22, 2001
Bridgewater	January 28, 2001	March 17, 2001	March 24, 2001	April 28, 2001
Brimfield	March 6, 2001	April 23, 2001	April 30, 2001	June 4, 2001
Brockton	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Brookfield	February 4, 2001	March 24, 2001	March 31, 2001	May 5, 2001
Brookline	January 31, 2001	March 20, 2001	March 27, 2001	May 1, 2001
Buckland	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Burlington	January 7, 2001	February 24, 2001	March 3, 2001	April 7, 2001
Cambridge	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Canton	January 3, 2001	February 20, 2001	February 27, 2001	April 3, 2001
Carlisle				Not available
Carver	January 7, 2001	February 24, 2001	March 3, 2001	April 7, 2001
Charlemont	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Charlton	February 4, 2001	March 24, 2001	March 31, 2001	May 5, 2001
Chatham	February 9, 2001	March 29, 2001	April 5, 2001	May 10, 2001
Chelmsford	January 3, 2001	February 20, 2001	February 27, 2001	April 3, 2001
Chelsea	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Cheshire	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Chester	February 4, 2001	March 24, 2001	March 31, 2001	May 5, 2001
Chesterfield	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Chicopee	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Chilmark	January 26, 2001	March 15, 2001	March 22, 2001	April 26, 2001
Clarksburg	February 14, 2001	April 3, 2001	April 10, 2001	May 15, 2001
Clinton	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Cohasset				Not available
Colrain	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Concord	December 27, 2000	February 13, 2001	February 20, 2001	March 27, 2001
Conway	January 12, 2001	March 1, 2001	March 8, 2001	April 12, 2001
Cummington	February 3, 2001	March 23, 2001	March 30, 2001	May 4, 2001
Dalton	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Danvers	January 31, 2001	March 20, 2001	March 27, 2001	May 1, 2001
Dartmouth	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Dedham	December 17, 2000	February 3, 2001	February 10, 2001	March 17, 2001
Deerfield	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Dennis	February 14, 2001	April 3, 2001	April 10, 2001	May 15, 2001
Dighton	December 14, 2000	January 23, 2001	January 30, 2001	March 5, 2001
Douglas	February 7, 2001	March 27, 2001	April 3, 2001	May 8, 2001
Dover	February 20, 2001	April 9, 2001	April 16, 2001	May 21, 2001
Dracut	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Drury	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Dudley	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Dunstable	February 20, 2001	April 9, 2001	April 16, 2001	May 21, 2001

Community	Begin Signature Petition	Signature Petition Due	Last Day for Governing Body Action	Election
Duxbury	December 24, 2000	February 10, 2001	February 17, 2001	March 24, 2001
East Bridgewater	January 7, 2001	February 24, 2001	March 3, 2001	April 7, 2001
East Brookfield	February 7, 2001	March 27, 2001	April 3, 2001	May 8, 2001
East Longmeadow	January 10, 2001	February 27, 2001	March 6, 2001	April 10, 2001
Eastham	February 14, 2001	April 3, 2001	April 10, 2001	May 15, 2001
Easthampton	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Easton	January 23, 2001	March 12, 2001	March 19, 2001	April 23, 2001
Edgartown	January 12, 2001	March 1, 2001	March 8, 2001	April 12, 2001
Egremont	February 14, 2001	April 3, 2001	April 10, 2001	May 15, 2001
Erving	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Essex	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Everett	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Fairhaven	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Fall River	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Falmouth				Not available
Fitchburg	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Florida				Not available
Foxborough	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Framingham	January 6, 2001	February 23, 2001	March 2, 2001	April 6, 2001
Franklin	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Freetown	December 14, 2000	January 23, 2001	January 30, 2001	March 5, 2001
Gardner	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Georgetown	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Gill	February 20, 2001	April 9, 2001	April 16, 2001	May 21, 2001
Gloucester	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Goshen	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Gosnold	February 14, 2001	April 3, 2001	April 10, 2001	May 15, 2001
Grafton	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Granby	February 20, 2001	April 9, 2001	April 16, 2001	May 21, 2001
Granville	January 9, 2001	February 26, 2001	March 5, 2001	April 9, 2001
Great Barrington	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Greenfield	March 14, 2001	May 1, 2001	May 8, 2001	June 12, 2001
Groton	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Groveland	February 9, 2001	March 29, 2001	April 5, 2001	May 10, 2001
Hadley	January 10, 2001	February 27, 2001	March 6, 2001	April 10, 2001
Halifax	February 18, 2001	April 7, 2001	April 14, 2001	May 19, 2001
Hamilton	February 9, 2001	March 29, 2001	April 5, 2001	May 10, 2001
Hampden	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Hancock	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Hanover	February 11, 2001	March 31, 2001	April 7, 2001	May 12, 2001
Hanson	February 18, 2001	April 7, 2001	April 14, 2001	May 19, 2001
Hardwick	January 9, 2001	February 26, 2001	March 5, 2001	April 9, 2001
Harvard	January 3, 2001	February 20, 2001	February 27, 2001	April 3, 2001
Harwich	February 14, 2001	April 3, 2001	April 10, 2001	May 15, 2001
Hatfield	February 14, 2001	April 3, 2001	April 10, 2001	May 15, 2001
Haverhill	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Hawley	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Heath	February 3, 2001	March 23, 2001	March 30, 2001	May 4, 2001

Community	Begin Signature Petition	Signature Petition Due	Last Day for Governing Body Action	Election
Hingham	February 4, 2001	March 24, 2001	March 31, 2001	May 5, 2001
Hinsdale	February 18, 2001	April 7, 2001	April 14, 2001	May 19, 2001
Holbrook	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Holden	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Holland	March 13, 2001	April 29, 2001	May 6, 2001	June 11, 2001
Holliston	February 21, 2001	April 10, 2001	April 17, 2001	May 22, 2001
Holyoke	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Hopedale	February 7, 2001	March 27, 2001	April 3, 2001	May 8, 2001
Hopkinton	February 20, 2001	April 9, 2001	April 16, 2001	May 21, 2001
Hubbardston	February 7, 2001	March 27, 2001	April 3, 2001	May 8, 2001
Hudson	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Hull	February 20, 2001	April 9, 2001	April 16, 2001	May 21, 2001
Huntington	February 18, 2001	April 7, 2001	April 14, 2001	May 19, 2001
Ipswich	January 10, 2001	February 27, 2001	March 6, 2001	April 10, 2001
Kingston	February 11, 2001	March 31, 2001	April 7, 2001	May 12, 2001
Lakeville	December 14, 2000	January 23, 2001	January 30, 2001	March 5, 2001
Lancaster	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Lanesborough	February 20, 2001	April 9, 2001	April 16, 2001	May 21, 2001
Lawrence	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Lee	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Leicester	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Lenox	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Leominster	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Leverett	January 28, 2001	March 17, 2001	March 24, 2001	April 28, 2001
Lexington	December 14, 2000	January 23, 2001	January 30, 2001	March 5, 2001
Leyden	February 20, 2001	April 9, 2001	April 16, 2001	May 21, 2001
Lincoln	December 24, 2000	February 10, 2001	February 17, 2001	March 24, 2001
Littleton	February 4, 2001	March 24, 2001	March 31, 2001	May 5, 2001
Longmeadow				Not available
Lowell	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Ludlow	December 26, 2000	February 12, 2001	February 19, 2001	March 26, 2001
Lunenburg	February 4, 2001	March 24, 2001	March 31, 2001	May 5, 2001
Lynn	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Lynnfield	January 9, 2001	February 26, 2001	March 5, 2001	April 9, 2001
Malden	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Manchester-by-the-sea	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Mansfield	February 7, 2001	March 27, 2001	April 3, 2001	May 8, 2001
Marblehead	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Marion	January 27, 2001	March 16, 2001	March 23, 2001	April 27, 2001
Marlborough	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Marshfield	January 28, 2001	March 17, 2001	March 24, 2001	April 28, 2001
Mashpee	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Mattapoisett	January 3, 2001	February 20, 2001	February 27, 2001	April 3, 2001
Maynard	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Medfield	December 26, 2000	February 12, 2001	February 19, 2001	March 26, 2001
Medford	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Medway	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Melrose	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001

Community	Begin Signature Petition	Signature Petition Due	Last Day for Governing Body Action	Election
Mendon	February 10, 2001	March 30, 2001	April 6, 2001	May 11, 2001
Merrimac	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Methuen	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Middleborough	January 7, 2001	February 24, 2001	March 3, 2001	April 7, 2001
Middlefield	February 4, 2001	March 24, 2001	March 31, 2001	May 5, 2001
Middleton	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Milford	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Millbury	January 24, 2001	March 13, 2001	March 20, 2001	April 24, 2001
Millis	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Millville	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Milton	January 24, 2001	March 13, 2001	March 20, 2001	April 24, 2001
Monroe	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Monson	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Montague	February 20, 2001	April 9, 2001	April 16, 2001	May 21, 2001
Monterey	February 4, 2001	March 24, 2001	March 31, 2001	May 5, 2001
Montgomery	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Mount Washington	February 7, 2001	March 27, 2001	April 3, 2001	May 8, 2001
Nahant	January 28, 2001	March 17, 2001	March 24, 2001	April 28, 2001
Nantucket	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Natick	December 27, 2000	February 13, 2001	February 20, 2001	March 27, 2001
Needham	January 9, 2001	February 26, 2001	March 5, 2001	April 9, 2001
New Ashford	February 14, 2001	April 3, 2001	April 10, 2001	May 15, 2001
New Bedford	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
New Braintree	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
New Marlborough	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
New Salem	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Newbury	February 7, 2001	March 27, 2001	April 3, 2001	May 8, 2001
Newburyport	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Newton	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Norfolk	January 31, 2001	March 20, 2001	March 27, 2001	May 1, 2001
North Adams	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
North Andover	December 14, 2000	January 24, 2001	January 31, 2001	March 6, 2001
North Attleborough	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
North Brookfield	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
North Reading	February 7, 2001	March 27, 2001	April 3, 2001	May 8, 2001
Northampton	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Northborough	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Northbridge	January 31, 2001	March 20, 2001	March 27, 2001	May 1, 2001
Northfield	February 1, 2001	March 21, 2001	March 28, 2001	May 2, 2001
Norton				Not available
Norwell	December 17, 2000	February 3, 2001	February 10, 2001	March 17, 2001
Norwood	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Oak Bluffs				Not available
Oakham	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Orange	December 14, 2000	January 23, 2001	January 30, 2001	March 5, 2001
Orleans	February 21, 2001	April 10, 2001	April 17, 2001	May 22, 2001
Otis	February 21, 2001	April 10, 2001	April 17, 2001	May 22, 2001
Oxford	February 14, 2001	April 3, 2001	April 10, 2001	May 15, 2001

Community	Begin Signature Petition	Signature Petition Due	Last Day for Governing Body Action	Election
Palmer	January 17, 2001	March 6, 2001	March 13, 2001	April 17, 2001
Paxton	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Peabody	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Pelham				Not available
Pembroke	January 28, 2001	March 17, 2001	March 24, 2001	April 28, 2001
Pepperell	January 23, 2001	March 12, 2001	March 19, 2001	April 23, 2001
Peru	March 11, 2001	April 28, 2001	May 5, 2001	June 9, 2001
Petersham	December 14, 2000	January 23, 2001	January 30, 2001	March 5, 2001
Phillipston	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Pittsfield	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Plainfield	February 4, 2001	March 24, 2001	March 31, 2001	May 5, 2001
Plainville	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Plymouth	February 18, 2001	April 7, 2001	April 14, 2001	May 19, 2001
Plympton	February 18, 2001	April 7, 2001	April 14, 2001	May 19, 2001
Princeton	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Provincetown	January 31, 2001	March 20, 2001	March 27, 2001	May 1, 2001
Quincy	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Randolph	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Raynham	January 28, 2001	March 17, 2001	March 24, 2001	April 28, 2001
Reading	January 3, 2001	February 20, 2001	February 27, 2001	April 3, 2001
Rehoboth	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Revere	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Richmond	February 25, 2001	April 14, 2001	April 21, 2001	May 26, 2001
Rochester	March 6, 2001	April 23, 2001	April 30, 2001	June 4, 2001
Rockland	January 14, 2001	March 3, 2001	March 10, 2001	April 14, 2001
Rockport	January 3, 2001	February 20, 2001	February 27, 2001	April 3, 2001
Rowe	February 18, 2001	April 7, 2001	April 14, 2001	May 19, 2001
Rowley	February 7, 2001	March 27, 2001	April 3, 2001	May 8, 2001
Royalston	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Russell	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Rutland	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Salem	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Salisbury	February 7, 2001	March 27, 2001	April 3, 2001	May 8, 2001
Sandisfield	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Sandwich	February 9, 2001	March 29, 2001	April 5, 2001	May 10, 2001
Saugus	August 4, 2001	September 21, 2001	September 28, 2001	November 2, 2001
Savoy	February 7, 2001	March 27, 2001	April 3, 2001	May 8, 2001
Scituate	December 31, 2000	February 17, 2001	February 24, 2001	March 31, 2001
Seekonk	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Sharon	January 31, 2001	March 20, 2001	March 27, 2001	May 1, 2001
Sheffield	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Shelburne	March 13, 2001	April 29, 2001	May 6, 2001	June 11, 2001
Sherborn	February 7, 2001	March 27, 2001	April 3, 2001	May 8, 2001
Shirley	February 9, 2001	March 29, 2001	April 5, 2001	May 10, 2001
Shrewsbury	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Shutesbury	February 4, 2001	March 24, 2001	March 31, 2001	May 5, 2001
Somerset	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Somerville	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001

Community	Begin Signature Petition	Signature Petition Due	Last Day for Governing Body Action	Election
South Hadley	January 1, 2001	February 18, 2001	February 25, 2001	April 1, 2001
Southampton	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Southborough	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Southbridge	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Southwick	February 7, 2001	March 27, 2001	April 3, 2001	May 8, 2001
Spencer	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Springfield	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Sterling				Not available
Stockbridge	February 20, 2001	April 9, 2001	April 16, 2001	May 21, 2001
Stoneham	January 3, 2001	February 20, 2001	February 27, 2001	April 3, 2001
Stoughton	January 10, 2001	February 27, 2001	March 6, 2001	April 10, 2001
Stow	February 28, 2001	April 17, 2001	April 24, 2001	May 29, 2001
Sturbridge	January 9, 2001	February 26, 2001	March 5, 2001	April 9, 2001
Sudbury	December 26, 2000	February 12, 2001	February 19, 2001	March 26, 2001
Sunderland	February 4, 2001	March 24, 2001	March 31, 2001	May 5, 2001
Sutton	February 21, 2001	April 10, 2001	April 17, 2001	May 22, 2001
Swampscott	January 24, 2001	March 13, 2001	March 20, 2001	April 24, 2001
Swansea	January 8, 2001	February 25, 2001	March 4, 2001	April 8, 2001
Taunton	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Templeton	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Tewksbury	January 7, 2001	February 24, 2001	March 3, 2001	April 7, 2001
Tisbury	February 7, 2001	March 27, 2001	April 3, 2001	May 8, 2001
Tolland				Not available
Topsfield	February 2, 2001	March 22, 2001	March 29, 2001	May 3, 2001
Townsend	January 23, 2001	March 12, 2001	March 19, 2001	April 23, 2001
Truro	February 14, 2001	April 3, 2001	April 10, 2001	May 15, 2001
Tyngsborough	February 7, 2001	March 27, 2001	April 3, 2001	May 8, 2001
Tyringham	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Upton	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Uxbridge	January 10, 2001	February 27, 2001	March 6, 2001	April 10, 2001
Wakefield	January 24, 2001	March 13, 2001	March 20, 2001	April 24, 2001
Wales	February 28, 2001	April 17, 2001	April 24, 2001	May 29, 2001
Walpole	March 4, 2001	April 21, 2001	April 28, 2001	June 2, 2001
Waltham	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Ware	January 9, 2001	February 26, 2001	March 5, 2001	April 9, 2001
Wareham	January 3, 2001	February 20, 2001	February 27, 2001	April 3, 2001
Warren	January 31, 2001	March 20, 2001	March 27, 2001	May 1, 2001
Warwick	December 14, 2000	January 30, 2001	February 6, 2001	March 12, 2001
Washington				Not available
Watertown	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Wayland	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Webster	February 1, 2001	March 21, 2001	March 28, 2001	May 2, 2001
Wellesley	December 14, 2000	January 31, 2001	February 7, 2001	March 13, 2001
Wellfleet	January 30, 2001	March 19, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 30, 2001
Wendell	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Wenham	February 4, 2001	March 24, 2001	March 31, 2001	May 5, 2001
West Boylston	January 3, 2001	February 20, 2001	February 27, 2001	April 3, 2001
West Bridgewater	January 14, 2001	March 3, 2001	March 10, 2001	April 14, 2001

Community	Begin Signature Petition	Signature Petition Due	Last Day for Governing Body Action	Election
West Brookfield	January 31, 2001	March 20, 2001	March 27, 2001	May 1, 2001
West Newbury	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
West Springfield	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
West Stockbridge	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
West Tisbury	January 12, 2001	March 1, 2001	March 8, 2001	April 12, 2001
Westborough	December 14, 2000	January 24, 2001	January 31, 2001	March 6, 2001
Westfield	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Westford	February 1, 2001	March 21, 2001	March 28, 2001	May 2, 2001
Westhampton	March 4, 2001	April 21, 2001	April 28, 2001	June 2, 2001
Westminister	January 24, 2001	March 13, 2001	March 20, 2001	April 24, 2001
Weston	February 4, 2001	March 24, 2001	March 31, 2001	May 5, 2001
Westport				Not available
Westwood	January 30, 2001	March 19, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 30, 2001
Weymouth	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Whatley	December 14, 2001	January 9, 2001	January 16, 2001	February 20, 2001
Whitman	February 18, 2001	April 7, 2001	April 14, 2001	May 19, 2001
Wilbraham				Not available
Williamsburg				Not available
Williamstown	February 7, 2001	March 27, 2001	April 3, 2001	May 8, 2001
Wilmington	January 21, 2001	March 10, 2001	March 17, 2001	April 21, 2001
Winchendon	December 14, 2000	January 23, 2001	January 30, 2001	March 5, 2001
Winchester	December 27, 2000	February 13, 2001	February 20, 2001	March 27, 2001
Windsor	February 13, 2001	April 2, 2001	April 9, 2001	May 14, 2001
Winthrop	February 6, 2001	March 26, 2001	April 2, 2001	May 7, 2001
Woburn	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Worcester	August 8, 2001	September 25, 2001	October 2, 2001	November 6, 2001
Worthington	February 4, 2001	March 24, 2001	March 31, 2001	May 5, 2001
Wrentham	January 2, 2001	February 19, 2001	February 26, 2001	April 2, 2001
Yarmouth	January 9, 2001	February 26, 2001	March 5, 2001	April 9, 2001